

THIEVES SET THE FIRE.

Friday Night's Blaze Shielded Burglars.

FIFIELD BROTHERS ESCAPE

Evidence Developed to Prove That D. E. Fifield's Home Was Fired as a Shield to Marauders at Work in the Lumber Office on Jackson Street.

Facts have come to light since Friday night that clearly indicate the Fifield fire to be the work of an incendiary. Robbery was evidently the motive.

At about the same time the fire alarm was given Friday evening, the lumber office of Fifield Brothers, at the corner of North Jackson and Wall streets, was broken into and the place ransacked thoroughly. Entrance was gained through a back window. It so happened, however, that on Friday night when Mr. Fifield closed his office for the night he broke the key in endeavoring to look the front door. The key was broken off in the lock, and being thus unable to look the door, he took the precaution to gather up all the valuables in the office, and take them home. Night Officer Ed. Smith visited the office soon after the fire alarm and found the door unlocked. He closed it again, and took word to F. E. Fifield on North Jackson street. In the morning it was found that burglars had visited the place, but that thanks to Mr. Fifield's precaution no valuable property had been found.

That the burglary should have occurred on the same night as the fire was at first regarded as merely a coincidence. It has since developed, however, that just as the boy who is employed to ring the west side fire bell, had grasped the bell rope Friday night, an unknown man came into the engine house and drove him away from the bell rope, he taking hold and giving it a vigorous shaking up for a minute or more, then running away. In a minute or so after, another stranger hurriedly entered the station.

"You don't know how to ring a bell. You don't make noise enough," he said, and taking the rope from the boy he pulled the bell for some time, in fact until the fire was struck out from the box. He then hurriedly left the station.

Both parties were strangers to the bell boy, and the boys say he never met them before, and don't know that he could identify them.

The police suppose that the two men who were so anxious to have a thorough alarm sounded on the fire bell were connected with burglarizing the lumber office, and also with setting the fire at Mr. Fifield's residence on South Main street.

CIRCUIT COURT OPENED.

Many Important Cases on the January Calendar.

The case of Samuel Barnham, executor against Margaret Park et al., came up before Judge Bennett in the circuit court to-day. The case concerns the construction of a will, as to whether a trustee appointed by the court has the same discretionary power as the one appointed in the will. A decision on this point has never been rendered in the state of Wisconsin.

Judge Bennett will dispose of as many cases as possible this week, and next week he will go to Jefferson to hold court. The calendar for the January term has been prepared as follows:

Henry Palmer against L. M. Williamson et al.; Winans & Hyzer and George G. Sutherland for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendants.

Henry Palmer against L. M. Williamson et al.; Winans & Hyzer and George G. Sutherland for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendants.

Abraham Hart et al. against the First National Bank, Janesville, garnishee of T. W. Wallis, Doe & Sutherland for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendants.

A rider against First National Bank, of Janesville, garnishee of T. W. Wallis, Doe & Sutherland for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendants.

Merchants' and Mechanics' Savings Bank against Mary O. Smith, Doe & Sutherland for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendants.

A. J. Phillips against Clara L. Phillips, Winans & Hyzer for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendants.

Samuel E. Wood against Elmer E. Ballard, Overell garnishee, Winans & Hyzer for the plaintiff; and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the garnishee and defendant.

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Martin Bremer against Herman Storm and Caroline Storm, L. F. Patten for the plaintiff; and Dunwiddie & Goldin for the defendants.

Morris Halloran against John McDermott and Frank McDermott, Nolan & Cunningham for the plaintiff; and F. O. Burpee for the defendant.

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Frederick Richter against E. Boote, Sylvester & Schrieber for the plaintiff; Dunwiddie & Goldin for the defendant; O. C. Ford et al. against Mary O. Smith et al.; Dunwiddie & Goldin for the plaintiff; Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendant.

Beck & Paul, Lithographing Company, against Williams Engine Company, Sylvester & Schrieber for the plaintiff; William Rager for the defendant.

Elizabeth Edward against Lyman Borden, Doe & Sutherland for the plaintiff; and Winans & Hyzer for the defendant.

State of Wisconsin against Charles

Green, W. G. Wheeler for the state, and Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield for the defendant.

Samuel Barnham, trustee, etc., against Margaret Park, et al., Nolan & Cunningham for the plaintiff, and Fred O. Burpee for the defendant.

James Clough against Margaret Clough, Doe & Sutherland for the plaintiff and Nolan & Cunningham for the defendant.

Anna Bell McFarland against Hugh McFarland, Doe & Sutherland for the plaintiff and Dunwiddie & Goldin for the defendant.

BRIEF LOCAL MENTION.

Said the young man: "Can anything equal my love?"

I proposed to four girls and they all answered "No."

Said his friend: "That is nothing; behold my love!"

For I spoke to two girls and they both said "Yes."

Stevens Point will do a great deal of paving.

A. F. Hall & Co.'s base ball window is attracting a good deal of attention.

Good goods and moderate prices. Come and see us. Excelsior Bakery, 33 South Main.

Little Nugget, the farce-musical comedy, has been greatly strengthened since its former production here.

There will be a concert of the History club this evening, the meeting having been put over until next Monday.

"Becker," on the bridge, is now ready for you. He carries nothing but the best goods in the market. Can fit your foot.

The publication of "An Army Portrait" has been interrupted to-day by pressure of other matter. It will be resumed tomorrow.

There are no special invitations to Burns anniversary this year. All are cordially invited to come and celebrate the occasion.

FOR RENT.—Sixteen acres of land with tobacco shed. Terms cash. Enquire of Mrs. A. A. Corwin, 152 Mineral Point avenue.

Tickets for the N. O. W. club masquerade are on sale for those who hold invitations, at S. O. Barnham & Company's store.

The Chicago & Northwestern pay car visited Janesville to-day and caused smiles to appear on the faces of the company's employees.

All lovers of true humor should hear Mr. Lenzell describe Kirsty McPherson's "Electric Trip to London," tomorrow evening.

The store next the postoffice now occupied by Shea & Sons will be for rent from February 1. Best location in the city. Call at the store.

The Concordia annual masquerade will be given February 9. It will be the masquerade ball of the season. Tickets fifty cents and all are invited.

Miss Drucio Gilmore as "Little Nugget," is said to be a charming and captivating comedienne. She will visit Myers Grand Opera House Thursday, January 29.

The new legislative train has been put on the Madison division of the Chicago & Northwestern road, and will run from Madison to Milwaukee during the session.

Conductor C. M. Thompson, who runs the Chicago & Northwestern Janesville accommodation, is taking his annual vacation. W. H. McDougal is taking his place.

George A. Shanessy, traveling agent for the National Builder, published in New York, arrived home on Saturday evening, and will spend a short season with his family.

Stylish foot wear is desirable, but without comfort a curse. The shoe that combines elegance and comfort is a blessing to humanity. Fecker has them on the bridge.

All bills due the Water Company must be paid before February 1, or water will be shut off, and two dollars in addition to the amount due must be paid before water will be turned on again.

Tickets for the Kennan lecture are for sale at the bookstore of King & Skelly, where a chart of the opera house may be seen and reserved seats selected. Seventy tickets were sold before noon to-day.

The county board committee on printing, consisting of Supervisors O. F. Nowlan, W. J. McInerney and Simon Smith was in session at the county clerk's office to-day.

Members of the highway, street and bridge committee, with several members of the common council, took a ride in the fire patrol wagon today, visiting the Monterey bridge, to ascertain the extent of the repairs necessary.

The parish of Christ church are requested to meet with the ladies of the Rectory society at four o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the home of David Fifield, when the report of the recent cake sale will be submitted.

Tickets for St. Cecilia concert on sale at King & Skelly's. Admission fifty cents. Children under fifteen, twenty-five cents. The children will all want to hear Ethel Jones at the Congregational church Friday evening, January 30.

Mr. D'Almeida, who will play at the Burns celebration, is the gentleman who charmed the audience at the recent Balmoral choir concert in this city. He is a thorough master of the violin, probably the finest player that ever visited Janesville.

Saturday was George Schaller's thirty-third birthday and the Bower City Band, of which Mr. Schaller is a member, told him of it by means of sounding brass and tinkling cymbal at his home on North Street. During the evening a luncheon was served and the band boys had a thoroughly good time until after midnight.

NEW HARDWARE FIRM.

F. M. Finch Sells Out to W. P. Plant, of Adrian.

The F. M. Finch Hardware Company has been dissolved, and is succeeded by the Janesville Hardware Company, F. M. Finch retire, and his interest has been bought by W. P. Plant, of Adrian, Michigan, the firm now being composed of William McCombs and W. P. Plant.

Mr. Plant is a practical hardware man, having been associated with the firm of Plant Brothers, of Adrian, for the past ten years. The new firm has taken possession of the business. Both members of the firm are young men thoroughly conversant with the business, and of recognized business qualities.

SUFFOCATED BY GAS.

Narrow Escape of Miss Fannie Vankirk.

BROTHER ALSO OVERCOME.

Miss Vankirk Attempts to Reach a Window, but Falls to the Floor and is Found Unconscious by a Hired Girl—Near Death's Door

Miss Fannie Vankirk and her little brother, Master Garfield Vankirk, came near death's door on Sunday morning. Half suffocated by coal gas, they were discovered just in time to save their life.

Miss Vankirk and her little brother retired to their room on Saturday evening, and the room being somewhat cold, a coal fire was started in a little stove in the room. Miss Vankirk not thinking of the consequences, left the door open and the damper turned wrong.

It appears that shortly after 4 o'clock Sunday morning, Master Garfield awakened his sister, and told her he was sick. Miss Vankirk realized that something was wrong, but was too nearly overcome to give assistance or even help herself.

She tried to call the servant girl who occupied an adjoining room, but without success. Her parents, Alderman and Mrs. W. T. Vankirk, room in the lower part of the house, and did not hear of the call for help. Finally Miss Vankirk made a desperate attempt to get up and escape from the suffocating fumes but as she left her bed she fell heavily on the floor.

The fall probably saved her life. It attracted the attention of the servant girl, and she, opening Miss Fannie's door, was horrified to find her lying in an insensible condition on the floor.

She immediately gave the alarm and Mrs. Vankirk hurried to the room, let in fresh air, and applied restoratives.

Consciousness was soon restored, but both Miss Vankirk and her brother were very sick all day Sunday. In falling Miss Vankirk struck heavily on her head and knee, receiving considerable injury. This morning both of the sufferers appeared to be fully restored, although both were experiencing severe headaches.

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BEN SHERER GETS HIS \$30,000.

The Janesville Conductor Collects a Big Lottery Prize in Person.

Word comes from New Orleans that Conductor Ben Sherer, of the Northwestern, has collected \$30,000 from the Louisiana lottery. Conductor Sherer, whose home is in this city, and who is one of the best known employees on the Wisconsin division, received word early last week that his ticket had drawn one-fifth of the \$150,000 prize. The conductor himself said nothing of his good luck but explained that he wanted a few days vacation and would visit the south. He had letters of introduction to New Orleans people and it was one of the men to whom he presented letters, who let the cat out of the bag. He telegraphed to his Janesville acquaintance:

"Your friend, Mr. Sherer, was here a half a day, but said he could not stay long, so I was unable to show him the country I wanted to. However, he took away \$30,000 of the lottery company's money, so I suppose he is just as happy."

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SKATERS TEMPT DEATH.

Ventursonie Boys in Imminent Peril.

SPRING BROOK DIAMONDS.

C. E. Ranous Discusses the River Street Depot Project, and Says It is a Long Way from Being Carried Out—Side Tracks Easy to Get.

"It is a wonder to me," said D. P. Smith this morning, "that some of those boys who skate up near our ice houses don't get drowned. They were skating yesterday on ice so thin that they could punch holes through it with their skates. That was where we had out the thick ice and a new crust had formed. The ice is strong now, because we have had so much warm weather. Some one will get in there, unless they stop skating where we have been cutting the ice."

Three attorneys stricken. Strange sequel to the visit of Janesville lawyers to Waukegan.

Four Janesville doctors and four Janesville lawyers were in Waukegan Friday as witnesses and attorneys in the suit of Gertrude A. Hurd against the town of Milton. The party came home Friday night, Saturday morning Hon. John Winans, the attorney for the plaintiff, was taken sick, and called Dr. Palmer a witness for the defendant. Then Hon. I. O. Sloan, attorney for the defense, was stricken with paralysis, and called Dr. J. B. Whiting a witness for the plaintiff. Then E. M. Hyzer, attorney for the plaintiff, was taken sick, and called Dr. Joe Whiting a witness for the plaintiff. A. A. Jackson and Dr. James Mills are the only ones not affected by the coincidence.

SIR KNIGHTS WILL BANQUET. Janesville Templars Plan an Elaborate Spread for February 10.

Janesville Knights Templar will give a grand banquet at their hall on Tuesday evening, February 10. A committee consisting of Sir Knights Fenner Kimball, George McKee and Clark E. Ranous, has been appointed for the purpose of making all the arrangements. This general committee will appoint the sub-committees and attend to other minor details of the affair.

The Sir Knights intend making this one of the leading social gatherings of the season. Invitations will be issued but the party will be confined strictly to Sir Knights and their ladies. Delegations are expected from Beloit, Monroe, Edgerton, Brodhead, Evansville, Milton, Whitewater, and other points. Short speeches and music and singing will form part of the entertainment at the banquet table, after which there will be a social dance. The tables will be set in Masonic hall, and negotiations are in progress to secure Liberty hall for the dance.

BOYS' BANQUET AT THE MYERS. Landlord Brice Entertains the Cohort of Volunteer Waiters.

Landlord O. N. Brice's dinner to the boys who served as waiters at the Business Men's banquet, was given yesterday. At 2 o'clock the boys entered the dining hall and at a handsomely decorated table partook of the following

MENU.

Potage, a la Rhine. Consomme a la Royal. Baked Trout, an Gratin Port Wine. Sirloin of Beef, Brown Gravy. Loins of Veal with Dressing. Domestic Duck with Jelly. Roast of Lamb with Mint Sauce. Fricassee of Chicken, a la Maitre. Fillet of Beef, aux Petites Potes. Shrimp Salad, a la Mayonnaise. Apple Pie. Mince Pie. Lemon Cream Pie. English Walnut Ice Cream. Angel Food. Coconut Layer. Orange Cake. Strawberry Jelly. Fruit Frutti Jelly. Pineapple Jelly. Oranges. Bananas. American Cheese. Baked Crabs. Mixed Nuts.

FOUR LIVELY COMMITTEES. Charity Ball Ticket Sellers Preparing for Work.